

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13  
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AGRE-00 IGA-02  
/098 W

-----291048Z 124223 /12

R 290910Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4908

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0865

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PAID, SO, US

SUBJ: US AID SURVEY TEAM CALLS ON CHAIRMAN STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

REF: MOGADISCIO 0843

1. IN THEIR FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CALL AT MOGADISCIO, MEMBERS US AID  
SURVEY TEAM, IN COMPANY OF AMBASSADOR, CALLED ON CHAIRMAN STATE PLANN  
ING  
COMMISSION DR. MOHAMED YUSUF WEIRAH MAY 25. DISCUSSION ESTABLISHED  
GSDR'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING U.S. AID AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

2. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, WEIRAH GAVE CAPSULE  
HISTORY OF US/SOMALI AID RELATIONS. HE RECALLED THAT US AID WAS  
TERMINATED BY USG IN 1970 ON GROUNDS THAT SHIPS FLYING SOMALI FLAG OF  
CONVENIENCE WERE TRADING WITH NORTH VIET-NAM, DESPITE GSDR'S EXPLANAT  
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ION

THAT NONE OF SHIPS WERE SOMALI-OWNED. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS AND OTHER  
POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, GSDR HAD ALWAYS BEEN READY TO RECEIVE  
AID FROM USG. GSDR WELCOMED SUCH AID NOW BUT AID MUST BE  
UNCONDITIONAL. GSDR WOULD NOT ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON ITS  
SOVEREIGNTY BY ANY AID DONOR.

3. HE SAID LAST TIME US AID WAS DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFFS (SEPTEMBER 1976), AID WAS MADE CONDITIONAL ON GSDR SUPPORT FOR FORMER US SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICIES. GSDR OPPOSED THESE POLICIES BECAUSE IN ITS OPINION, THEY WERE DESIGNED PREVENT ACHIEVEMENT TRUE INDEPENDENCE BY PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. GSDR'S POLICY WAS BASED ON BEDROCK OF SOCIALISM AND SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION ALL PEOPLES; COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN COOPERATION WITH GSDR MUST UNDERSTAND THIS. SOVIETS APPARENTLY HAD NOT DONE SO. GSDR HAD OPPOSED BRITISH POLICY IN ETHIOPIA AFTER WWII, LATER OPPOSED US POLICY IN THAT COUNTRY AND NOW OPPOSED SOVIETS, AND FOR SAME REASON IN EACH CASE. ANY POWER WHICH GAVE ETHIOPIANS MEANS TO HOLD ON TO THEIR IMPERIAL ACQUISITIONS WAS HELPING THWART NATIONAL LIBERATION ASPIRATIONS OF OGADENI SOMALIS, AS WELL AS BEDROCK PRINCIPLES OF GSDR. WEIRAH NOTED THESE WERE SAME SOVIETS UNTIL RECENTLY DESCRIBED BY USG AS MASTERS OF SOMALIA. GSDR WOULD FOLLOW CONSISTENT POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ETHIOPIA REGARDLESS OF NATURE REGIME AT ADDIS ABABA OR IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF POWERS SUPPORTING IT.

5. EARLY EXPECTATIONS THAT ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WOULD LIBERATE OPPRESSED NATIONALITIES OF EMPIRE HAD BEEN DASHED. OPPRESSED PEOPLES WERE NOW STRUGGLING REGAIN THEIR RIGHTS FROM "FASCIST" REGIME AND WERE BEING MET WITH "BLOODBATH". WEIRAH CLAIMED THAT "MORE THAN A MILLION" PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED SINCE ONSET REVOLUTION. THERE WAS A CONTINUING EXODUS OF REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA INTO SOMALIA, AND GSDR WAS NOW OPERATING "SEVEN" REFUGEE CAMPS TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. HE HAD NO DATA ON TOTAL  
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NUMBER REFUGEES.

6. TURNING TO ECONOMIC SECTOR, WEIRAH SAID GSDR WAS FACING "MANY" PROBLEMS. GSDR HAD ELABORATED TWO-MULTI YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS; FIRST COVERING 1970-73, SECOND 1974-78. FIRST PLAN WAS STOP-GAP TO TRY TO COPE WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INHERITED FROM PREVIOUS REGIME. PRESENT PLAN WAS INTENDED TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY AND "TRANSFORM" NOMADIC SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY. BUT RESULTS TO DATE WERE "VERY MODEST", FOR FOUR REASONS: A. DROUGHTS HAD CAUSED DIVERSION OF SCARCE RESOURCES, B. WORLD-WIDE INFLATION CAUSED IMPORT COSTS TO SOAR, C. EXTERNAL SOURCES OF FINANCING HAD BEEN UNRELIABLE AND D. GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY WAS WEAK.

7. GSDR BELIEVED KEY TO RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAY IN EXPANSION IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN RIVERINE AREAS OF SOUTHERN SOMALIA. SURVEYS AND STUDIES HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE OF THESE AREAS AND MORE WERE UNDERWAY. THUS, GSDR WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IMMEDIATELY FOR POSSIBLE USG

INPUT. SPECIFICALLY, HE HOPED TEAM WOULD LOOK INTO SOMALIA'S REQUIREMENTS IN FOOD, FARM MACHINERY, AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, RURAL WATER DEVELOPMENT (TO SUPPORT LIVESTOCK), AS WELL AS MOGADISCIO'S WATER SUPPLY. ABOUT LATER, HE SAID PRESENT US-FINANCED SYSTEM WAS INTENDED FOR CITY OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND PEOPLE. MOGADISCIO'S PRESENT POPULATION WAS AROUND HALF-MILLION. WEIRAH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOMALIA NEEDED EVERYTHING AND WELCOMED ANY US ASSISTANCE IN WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES. EVERYONE HAD HIS OWN PRIORITIES AS TEAM MEMBERS WERE LIKELY TO FIND AS THEY MADE ROUNDS OF MINISTRIES.

8. CONCLUDING, WEIRAH SAID GSDR WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION ON AID REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS OTHER APPROPRIATE FACILITIES TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF MISSION. HE PROMISED TEAM A "FREE HAND".

9. COMMENT: WEIRAH'S SOMEWHAT SELF-INTERESTED REHEARSAL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAST US/GSDR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WAS TO BE EXPECTED, AND, IN ITS FRANKNESS, WELCOME. AS HE HIMSELF SAID, THEY DO NOT DIMINISH HIS RECOGNITION OF CHANGING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OR GENUINE INTEREST IN RESUMPTION US AID. FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT BETWEEN US AID SURVEY TEAM AND GSDR, THUS, SHOULD HAVE HELPED SET FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS NOW BEGINNING.  
LOUGHRAN

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